

Ms. Susan Watson

CLASSROOM GUIDELINES AND COURSE SYLLABUS
Algebra 1

Introduction

The following information is given to aid students in understanding, in detail, the expectations for behavior and procedure in the classroom. Some items will place emphasis on certain policies from the Student Handbook. Others will expand upon this to outline expectations of classes by the teacher.

Classroom Procedures

- Students should obtain any and all supplies needed for class prior to coming to class.
- Book bags will not be allowed at students' desks, but should be placed in a row in the back right hand corner of the classroom.
- Students should sharpen pencils prior to the bell which signals the beginning of class.
- Students will not be allowed to leave the classroom to retrieve needed supplies after the bell rings.

Attendance and Tardiness

Attendance and Tardy guidelines as outlined in the Student Handbook should be carefully noted and followed. Students should make every effort to refrain from being tardy to class. **Students are expected to be in their seats with the proper materials when the bell rings.**

Behavior

The Ten Commandments speak dually of our relationship with God and our relationship with man. This is further emphasized by Christ in the New Testament in His reference to the Greatest and Second Greatest Commandments.

1. With this in mind, all students are expected to show respect
 - To God and the things of God in action, attitude, and in speech
 - To the teacher, who is God's representative in the classroom. The teacher may be addressed as "Ms. Watson", "Yes, Ma'am", or "No, Ma'am". Responses of "Huh?", "What?", or "Yeah" are not acceptable.
 - To other students, who are all precious creations in the sight of God. Students are to respond to each other in a positive and respectful way, using appropriate names. Name calling or sarcastic/snide comments are not acceptable.
2. Talking is not permitted after the bell rings except with permission. Permission to talk may be obtained by raising your hand, *waiting to be called on*, and asking.

3. No food or drink of any kind is permitted in the classroom during class. The exception to this would be birthday celebrations and class or seasonal parties.
4. Please note that dress code violations and technology use violations (cell phones, ipods, etc.) will be dealt with as per the Student Handbook. Repeat violations in the use of electronic devices will result in the confiscation of such devices, to be returned at a conference with the parents.
5. Refrain from making any extraneous noise such as tapping, clicking, drumming, or conversing with classmates.
6. Pencil sharpening will not take place during teaching or presentation. You may sharpen pencils prior to class or, if absolutely necessary, during work time.
7. Do not get out of your seat without permission for any reason. Trash is to be kept at your seat until the end of class. You may take it with you when you leave class and throw it away in the big trash cans in the hallway. There is only a small trash can in the classroom.
8. If you must use a tissue, ask permission to get one and be very discreet so as NOT draw attention to yourself. If you are going to be noisy or disruptive, BRIEFLY step outside of the classroom to take care of your needs.
9. There is to be no personal grooming in class. DO NOT brush or comb your hair, apply any makeup or lotion, etc.
10. If you get sick or nauseated, please go to the restroom immediately to take care of your needs. You may leave WITHOUT permission. Someone will be sent to check on you.
11. Finally, honesty, integrity, responsibility, and self-discipline are expected of all students.

Homework

Homework assignments will be given by chapter with expected due dates. Homework that is one day late will receive a 50% reduction in credit. Homework will not be accepted after this point.

As math requires incremental learning, homework will be expected exactly on the due date and may not be turned in early. In math, homework is viewed as practice. Full credit is given if homework is complete, even if some problems were misunderstood and resulted in incorrect answers.

Heading Your Paper

You will find an example of how to head your paper properly for this class attached. It is expected that you follow this format.

Failure to properly head your paper will result in your paper being returned to you without credit with an expectation that you will make the necessary corrections before resubmitting your paper.

If the corrected paper is not received until the next class period, a 50% reduction in credit for the assignment will be given.

Showing Your Work

Students doing any math computations for any class are required to show **ALL** work unless prior instructions have been given. Failure to show **every step** in the process will result in your paper being returned to you without credit so that you may make the necessary corrections.

Again, if the corrected paper is not received until the next class period, a 50% reduction in credit for the assignment will be given.

Notebooks

Please see the notebook guidelines attached.

Calculators

Due to the extreme importance of developing and maintaining mental math skills, calculators will not be used for basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Mental computation drills will be performed with some regularity and students may receive various rewards for correct computations. In addition, speed drills will be used to encourage quick thinking.

As calculator sections come up in the curriculum, students will be taught how to program calculators to perform various functions after they have learned how to work through the processes mentally.

The **ONLY** calculator that may be used is the Radio Shack TRS-84 or TRS-83 Plus. This calculator is the only calculator that coincides with the current math curriculum.

Supply Lists

A supply list for each subject may be obtained from the school web site.

Grades

Grades will be determined as follows:

- 10% - Participation and Work Ethic
- 10% - Notebook
- 30% - Homework
- 20% - Quizzes
- 30% - Tests